A New PLOT

Newly Discovered,

By the Help of the *LONDON* Bell-Man;

Of wicked and hellish Conspiracies against the Peace of this Kingdom. Laid open to publick view of all Persons, both in City and Countrey.

WITH

A Term kept in HELL, by *Don Belzebub*, to try Causes in that Principality; which whilst they were sitting, a Letter to that Court was brought, shewing, that a certain Night-walker, of inferiour dignity, called the *London* Bell-man, had discovered most of the eminent Plots, Cheats, and Villanies of several of the Officers and Promoters of the Devils own kindred, and brought them in danger of their Lives; and by the help of his Lanthorn and Candle, made known the secrets that are taught in Hell, and laid them open to the broad eye of the World, and made them infamous, odious, and ridiculous to all Persons, in setting them forth in Print, and drawing their Pictures to the life, to the open view of all.

With the speedy Resolutions of the whole Court of *Don Lucifer*, upon the same, how to Countermine their Adversaries; with the manner of sending the Devil's Foot man, *Don Mugeltony*, as a Spye, amongst many Trades, to corrupt them, and to prevent the discovery of the Cheats following.

Wherein is added,

A new discovery of several cunning Gypsies, and thirteen sorts of crafty Rogues and canting Beggars, Men and Women, with their Names and Qualities described; With their manner of travelling over all *England* without ever a penny of Money.

The like never before Printed in so small a Volume. The First Part.

This may be Printed, R. L. S.

Printed for *J. Conyers* at the *Black Raven* a little above St. *Andrews* Church in *Holbourn*.

B12331. ee. 70.

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A Deſcription of the Hall where matters are tryed in Hell; wherein is alſo diſcovered the Cheats and Villanies that are acted in Town and Country.

IT was at a Term in Hell; by which means *Don Lucifer* had more rapping at his Gates, than all the Doctors and Quack-Salvers in twenty Cities in a great Plague. The Hall where theſe Cauſes were tryed was large, and ſtrongly built, only it had one fault: it was ſo hot that people could not endure to walk therein, yet to walk there they were compelled: Nothing could be heard there but noiſe; every one brawled with him he walked with; and ſuch gnaſhing of teeth when the Adverſaries met together, that the noiſe of an hundred fiſh-women, at *Billingsgate*, is not more horrible.

The matters that are here put in ſuite, are more than could be bred in Twenty Vacations, yet ſhould a man have diſpatcht out of hand in one Term; he had his Judgment. The Ink that they write with is the blood of Conjurers; they have no Paper, but Parchment, which is made of Scriveners skins flea'd off, being puniſhed for Forgery; their Stand-diſhes are the Sculls of Uſurers; and the Pens made of the bones of unconſcionable Brokers. Would you know what Cauſes are tryed here? I will turn over the Records. The Scholar is here ſued and condemned for Hereſies: the Citizen condemned for City ſins, their wives for pride, and their ſervants for ſtealth: The Souldier is condemned for murders: Actions of battery are brought againſt Swaggerers, and are here bonnd to the Peace; Actions of waſte are brought againſt Drunkards; And Belly-gods are here condemned to beg at the grate for one drop of water to cool their tongues, or one crumb of Bread to ſtay their hunger, yet are denied it: Harlots are here condemned to howling, to rottenneſs, and ſtench; here's no Errors to reverſe Judgment, but Writs of Outlawry to attach the Body for ever. Such doings are performed by the Prince of Darkneſs, in his Terms in Hell.

But whileſt *Don Belzebub* was ſitting in Court, in tryal of theſe matters, a Letter was brought him by one of his infernal Spies, intimating that his Kingdom was undermined, and the villanies and cheats of his Agents here on Earth, as, Thieves, Rogues, Pick-pockets, and Gypſies, and all others of that curſed crew, as followeth. This Term was adjourned, and a Council was held in Hell; how to prevent the diſcovery of theſe cheats, ſeveral propoſals were made.

A Com-

A Common Council in Hell was presently called; where up starts the Father of Hell and Damnation, and looking very terribly, with a pair of eyes as big as the Mouth at *Aldersgate*, and fetching four or five deep sighs, which was nothing else but the smoak of fire and brimstone boyling in his stomach, shewed as if he were taking Tobacco, as he often doth: He told his friends and servants, and the rest of his Citizens dwelling within the freedom of Hell, which sate before him on narrow formes, that they never had more cause to lay their heads together; he and they knew from all corners of the Earth many come, and serve him; and that his Dominions was great, and full of great men, and Princes, and all sorts of other people. But, said he, shall we have such a fellow as a Bell-man in his Night-walks, to pry into the infernal Mysteries and Black-Arts of the Spirits of the deep, and then to discover them, to make them appear ugly, and out of favour with the World; and Hell in a few years would not be worth the dwelling in. The great Lord *Belzebub* did therefore command all his Black-guard that stood about him to bestir them, and to defend his Court, and to punish this sawcy Bell-man of *London*. Thus he spake, and then sate down: One delivered his opinion one way, another the contrary; At last it was concluded as a Rule in Court, That some strange Spirit that could put himself into all shapes, should be sent up to *London*, and insinuate himself into all Companies, and perswade them to fight under the Banner of the Grand Seignior of Hell: Hereupon a Messenger was called, *Don Mugeltony*, and a Pass-port signed and delivered to him, and bid to fly to the great City of the *West*, and to wind himself into all shapes; as, a Dog to fawn, a Dragon to confound, a Devil (as thou art) to tempt all that thou canst; haunt Taverns, and there thou shalt find Prodigals, and Players, and Harlots, and Drunkards; search for the Usurers threescore in the hundred, hug those golden Villains; ride up and down *Smithfield* amongst the Horse-coursers; and into *Long-lane* amongst the Brokers and Taylors: I have read the Lecture, follow it, and so farewell. No sooner was farewell spoken, but this Spirit, to whom all these matters were given in charge, vanished; and the whole Assembly went about their damnable designs.

No sooner had he entered the City, but he met with one of his Masters Daughters, called *Pride*, drest like a Merchants Wife; she took acquaintance with him, and understanding his business, advised

him to put on fine cloaths in the fashion, for people are looked upon by their out-sides, and that many would undoe themselves, wife and children, to go fine: The Spirit made *Pride* a low leg for this Counsel, and so passed away to *Birchen-lane* to buy cloaths: No sooner was he entered, but he was terribly sharp set upon by every Prentice boy to pull him in; he fearing they had been Serjeants, because they all had him by the back; never was poor Devil tormented so in Hell, as he was amongst them: But finding no remedy, into a shop he goes, and was fitted bravely; but finding the price unconscionable, yet paid it: But the Taylor espying the Devil suffer him to go, not bidding him know the shop another time, but looked about seeing if any thing was missing, at last found he had lost his Conscience; but remembring that those that deal with the Devil can hardly keep it, he valued it the less.

This stygan Traveller having been translated into an Accomplished *Gallant*, with his Rapier by his side; he wanted nothing but Company suitable to his Cloaths; and knowing that selected Gallants do resort to Ordinaries, he accordingly enters in state: He was no sooner entered but these sharpers came about him, having never before the Embassador of the Devil to dine with them; he found that an Ordinary was the only Rendezvous of the cunningest wits, and sharpers, of the Town, and a very Exchange for News. Here if a Woman would cast her self away upon a Knight, to be a Lady, she might be fitted. Here a Man should have a Catalogue of the Richest Widows in *London*. Lastly, it was a School of one form; the Country-Gentleman was of as great cunning as the proudest Justice. The Devils Intelligencer could not content himself in feeding his eyes with objects, and his belly with good cheer; but he drew a large Picture of all that was there, in their colours.

The Voider having cleared the table, Cards and Dice were brought in as the next course; and those that were full of coyn drawed, and they that had little stood by and gave aim; they shuffle and cut on one side, and the bones rattle on the other. Long had they not played e're Oaths flew up and down like Hail-shot: If the poor dumb Dice be a little out of square, they cry, The Pox, and a thousand Plague break their necks out at window: Presently the four Knaves are sent the same way, or else, as Hereticks, are condemned to be burnt. In this battel of Cards and Dice they have several Regiments, and several

ral Officers: They that ſit downe to play, are, at firſt, called *Leaders*: Thoſe that loſe are the *Forlorn Hope*; He that wins is the *Eagle*; He that ſtands by and ventures, is the *Wood-Pecker*: The freſh Gameſter Gallant is the *Gull*: Laſtly, he that ſtands by and lends, is the *Gull-groper*, or *Impoſt-taker*.

The *Gull-groper* is one that is an old Money-monger, who hath ſeen all the follies of the World in his Youth, and ſhuns them in his Age; his while felicity is to fill his Bags with Gold and Silver: He comes to the Ordinary to ſave charges of Houſe-keeping; yet he ſwears he comes for company. Now if he, or the *Leader*, or *Forlorn Hope*, or any of the reſt, chance to hear of freſh-water Souldiers, that never before followed theſe Wars, (his Father being lately dead, and left him ten or twelve thouſand pounds in ready money,) they firſt enquire out his Lodging, and then they inſinuate themſelves into his company, at laſt draw him down to this Ordinary, where the reſt creep and cringe to him; and after dinner get him to play, where he ſhall for a great while win all; but, at laſt, with their cogging Dice, they win all our young Gallant's money: The *Forlorn Hope* doth gallantly come on; the *Eagle* feathers his Neſt; the *Wood-pecker* picks up his Crumbs; the *Gull-groper* grows fat with feeding; and the *Gull* himſelf, whom every one hath pull'd, hath (in the end) ſcarce enough to keep his back warm.

The Infernal Promoter being weary with travelling about the City at laſt he enters into the Suburbs; where he ſaw the doors of notorious curſed Bawds, like Hell-gates, night and day ſtanding open, with a pair of Harlots in ſilken Gowns, like two painted Poſts garniſhing out thoſe doors, being better to that houſe than a double ſign: when the door of a poor Tradeſman, if his Child had dyed but with one token of death about him, his door was cloſe ſhut up, and a Guard ſet at it, to prevent others being infected. Yet the Plague that a Whore-houſe lays upon the City, is worſe, yet laughed at; it is not looked into, or if looked into, yet winked at. The Tradeſman having his door locked up, loſeth his Conſtant Cuſtomers, and perhaps undoes him: whilſt in the mean time, the Strumpet is ſet at work, and maintained many times by thoſe Informers that undoe others: O wide-mouth'd Hell! laugh *Lucifer*, and dance Devils, for *Belzebub* keeps the Regiſter-Book of all Bawds, Panders, and Curtizens.

How

How to Travel without Charges.

He that undertakes this Journey, puts on brave Apparel, which he gets of ſome confiding Taylor; which having got himſelf mounted on a good Gelding, he rides into the Countrey, where his table is covered in every ſhire: When he comes within a mile of a Town, he ſets Spurrs to his Horſe, with his Coat off, and his Hat thruſt into his Breeches, as if it were loſt, with an empty pair of Hangers by his ſide, to ſhew that he hath been diſarmed; where he rides to a Gentleman's houſe, or a wealthy Farmer's, and their makes his complaint, how that he is a Gentleman, and hath been ſet upon by ſeveral High-way-Men, which had taken all his Silver and Gold away, and were rid into ſuch a Wood: The Gentlemen believing him, not knowing but at one time or other it might be their fortune to be ſerved ſo, took pitty on him, and were liberal of their Purſes to him. Thus he Travels from Town to Town, and from City to City, (as if he were Landlord in every ſhire) to gather up his Rents.

The degrees of the canting Beggars, Men and Women; with their Names and Qualities deſcribed.

YOu muſt underſtand, that, ſerving in the Countrey in the Office of an High-Conſtable, I came to the knowledge of theſe things, by theſe lewd perſons brought before me, which I ſhall preſent the Reader, as followeth:

The firſt is callad an *Upright Man*; he being the chief of all this ragged regiment, he walks with a Trunchin in his hand, like a Commanders ſtaff; pretends to be a decayed Souldier; and claims a ſhare in the booties of all the inferiour Rogues do get; he hath all the Morts and Doxeys at his beck, and commands any of the gang at his pleaſure. By this deſcription there is a great deal of difference between an upright man and an honeſt man. The 2. is, A *wild Rogue* is bred up from his Cradle, and ſo lives all his life-time, and diſdains to take any Calling or Profeſſion upon him; but as he lives, ſo he dies. The 3. is called, *Prigger* of *Prancers*, or *Horſe-ſtealers*; for to *prig* (in the canting language) is to *ſteal*, and *Prancer* ſignifieth a *Horſe*: Farmers and Countrey-Gentlemen, that keeps Horſes, know him by ſad experience. The 4. is *Palliards* or *Clapperdugeons*, which always go with their Morts at their heels; and with Sperwort and Arſneck raiſe blyſters on their Leggs, which they can cure again at their pleaſure: When they come into

into a ſtreet, they beg on the one ſide of the ſtreet, and the other on the other ſide, and the money they get, they are merry with at the bowſing ken-houſe, or Ale-houſe. The 5. are called *Quire-Birds*; they are ſuch as the Proverb ſaith, *Birds of a Feather are Rogues together*: they are (commonly) ſuch as ſing in ſuch like Cages as *Newgate*, or ſome other Priſon. The 6. is the *Abram-Man*, or *Tom* of *Bedlam*; he is one as counterfeits madneſs, and by many fantaſtick tricks, gets from Country people Bacon, and other victuals, as will yield him money, which he maketh himſelf drunk withall: He hath commonly a Doxy, called, *Beſs* of *Bedlam*; the Maids know them too well by their ſtealing their Linnen. A 7. ſort are called *Whipjacks*; they are ſuch as travel from town to town, under the pretence of ſhipwrackt Seamen, with a counterfeit Licenſe to beg, which Licenſe they call a *Gibe*. They talk of Sea-Voyages, but the end of their Land-Voyage is for what they can get, and to rob Booths at Fairs, which they call heaving the Booth; at which they are expert. The 8. are called *Counterfeit Cranks*; they are ſuch as pretend themſelves to have the Falling-ſickneſs, and by putting a piece of white Soap in the corner of their mouths, which will make the froth come out boyling, to cauſe pitty in the beholders: they ſtare wildly with their eyes, to appear as diſtracted; and go ſometimes half naked, to move the greater compaſſion: theſe *Cranks* have their Wenches, at their meetings, at their command. The 9. are called *Dumb-members*; and he is couſin *German* to the *Cranks*; for as the one counterfeits the Falling-ſickneſs, the other counterfeits Dumbneſs, making a horrible noiſe, inſtead of ſpeech by doubling his tongue in his mouth; but if you give him nothing, he can then open his mouth to curſe you privately: This *Jack* hath his Mob, upon which he ſpends his lowre at the bouſing-Ken-houſe. The 10. is called *Patrico*, or their Prieſt; every hedge is his pariſh, and every wandring Rogue and Whore are his Pariſhioners: His ſervice is only marrying of couples, by bidding them go together, and multiply, and fill the world with a generation of Vagabonds. The 11. are *Glimmerars*; they are ſuch as travel about with a Licenſe to beg, becauſe they pretend their Houſes were conſumed by Fire; they uſe a ſad tone in begging, and tell a lamentable ſtory, how the fire deſtroyed their Barns and Stables, and other Goods; by which lyes they get ſtore of money to buy bub at the booſing ken. The 12. is called a

Jackman,

Jackman; he is one that can write and reade, and hath some smattering in the *Latin* Tongue; by which means he advances amongst the Beggars for a Clerk; his Imployment is to make counterfeit Licenses, with Seals, by which he gets store of lowre, to make himself drunk withall. The 13. of this rambling Crew, are called *Kinchin Coves*; being little boys, whose Parents were Beggars; but being dead, are young Boys that run from their Masters, and follow this kind of life: The first thing they learn, is to cant; and the only thing they do, is to pick Pockets, and creep in at Windows, or Cellar doors. Thus have I given you a short description of the Men; by which you may give a shrewd guess at the Women.

At first they are *Kinchin-morts*, and their Mothers carries them at their backs in sheets: When the *Mort* begs, they prick their *Kinchins* with Pins to make them cry, that the people might the speedier give them their Alms. *Dells* are young Wenches that have lost their Maidenheads when they were very young; after, they change their name into *Doxeys*; which being deflowred by the *Upright Man*, are after common to any of the Brotherhood. A walking *Mort* is one that hath had several Lulaby-cheats, or Children, yet never married: They are dangerous queans to meet withall; and are kept in awe only by the *Upright Man*. The next is *Auter-morts*, another sort of she-Devils; and differs from the other, because she is married: They commonly walk with their Wallets on their shoulders, and sheets at their backs, and will pilfer any thing that lies carelesly about houses: Their Husbands are commonly called *Rufflers*.

Thus I have given you a brief Account of this knot of Villanies, which may be properly called *The Devils Black-Guard*; which may be of great use to all people, both in City and Countrey, to take heed they are not ruined by them. And so I bid you farewell: Forewarned forearmed.

FINIS.

Ready to be Printed, The Bell-man's Night-search, *or*, The Second Part of the New Plot discovered, by the help of the *London* Bell-man, *Laying open several Cheats and Villanies.*

This may be Printed, R. P.